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## **TALEN ENERGY STADIUM PICKED TO HOST U.S.-GERMANY WOMEN'S SOCCER SHOWDOWN**

CARSON, Calif. - The U.S. women's soccer team is set to return to Talen Energy Stadium on March 1 for a blockbuster clash with Germany.

It will be a matchup of the top two teams in the world, as of the most recent FIFA world rankings: the No. 1 and reigning World Cup-champion Americans against the No. 2 and reigning Olympic gold-medalist Germans.

The game will be part of the SheBelieves Cup, an international friendly tournament that also will feature top European nations France (ranked No. 3) and England (ranked No. 5). Those two teams will play in Chester on the same day as the U.S.-Germany game, with both contests on the same ticket.

The U.S. owns a 20-4-7 record against Germany, including a 13-game unbeaten streak. Germany's last win was in the semifinals of the 2003 World Cup. The last two matchups have been big ones: a 2-0 U.S. win in last year's World Cup semifinal, and a 1-0 win in the inaugural SheBelieves Cup last March.

The coming game will be the U.S. women's team's fifth at the Union's home, and their 12th in the greater Philadelphia region. Their overall record here is 8-1-3. The first of those games came in 1991 at the United German Hungarian Club in Oakford; the most recent was last April at Talen Energy Stadium.

The SheBelieves Cup will be played in three venues. After the doubleheader in Chester, the four teams will head north to Red Bull Arena in Harrison, N.J., on March 4, for a twinbill of U.S.-England and Germany-France.

The tournament concludes at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., on March 7, with U.S.-France and England-Germany.

Expect U.S. coach Jill Ellis to marshal most of her team's biggest stars for the tournament, including Carli Lloyd, Tobin Heath, Becky Sauerbrunn, and Alex Morgan - the last of whom recently signed a six-month contract with French powerhouse club Lyon.

But don't be surprised if Ellis also makes plenty of room for the generation of young players that is rising up the national team ranks. In addition to Crystal Dunn and Mallory Pugh, there's 17-year-old Ashley Sanchez, one of the few bright spots in the U.S.' disappointing fourth-place finish in the recent FIFA Under-20 World Championship.

Hovering over all of this is the women's national team players' union's lack of a new collective bargaining agreement with U.S. Soccer.

The previous CBA expired at the end of 2016. U.S. Soccer and the players' union agreed to start this year still operating under the terms of that deal. That includes this month's winter training camp here in California, which begins Friday.

As soccer fans worldwide have seen from newspaper reports and television features, the U.S. players have loudly voiced their desire to be paid more by the Federation, and to receive better off-the-field benefits, such as not flying in coach class and per diems that equal what the men's national team gets.

### 2017 SheBelieves Cup schedule

Wednesday, March 1: France vs. England (4 p.m.) and United States vs. Germany (7 p.m., Fox Sports 1) at Talen Energy Stadium, Chester, Pa.

Saturday, March 4: Germany vs. France (2:15 p.m.) and United States vs. England (5 p.m., Fox) at Red Bull Arena, Harrison, N.J.

Tuesday, March 7: England vs. Germany (4 p.m.) and United States (7 p.m., Fox Sports 1) vs. France at RFK Stadium, Washington, D.C.

Broadcast details for non-U.S. games and ticket sales information are still to be confirmed.